## 𑌗𑍍𑌰𑌨𑍍𑌥𑌾𑌕𑍍𑌷𑌰𑌾

**𑌹𑌰𑌿𑌃 𑌓𑌂 𑌨𑌮𑍋 𑌨𑌾𑌰𑌾𑌯𑌣𑌾𑌯 𑌨𑌮𑌃**

### 𑌸𑍍𑌵𑌰𑌾𑌃 - உயிர் எழுத்துக்கள்

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 𑌅 | 𑌆 | 𑌇 | 𑌈 | 𑌉 | 𑌊 | 𑌋 | 𑍠 | 𑌌 |
| अ | आ | इ | ई | उ | ऊ | ऋ | ॠ | ऌ |
| அ | ஆ | இ | ஈ | உ | ஊ | ரு | ரூ | ல்ரு |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 𑌏 | 𑌐 | 𑌓 | 𑌔 | 𑌅𑌂 | 𑌅𑌃 |
| ए | ऐ | ओ | औ | अं | अः |
| ஏ | ஐ | ஓ | ஔ | அம் | அஹ |

★ ரு ரூ ல்ரு are not proper representations of the Sanskrit vowels ऋ ॠ and ऌ

### 𑌵𑍍𑌯𑌞𑍍𑌜𑌨𑌾𑌨𑌿 - மெய்யெழுத்துக்கள்

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 𑌕 | 𑌖 | 𑌗 | 𑌘 | 𑌙 | 𑌚 | 𑌛 | 𑌜 | 𑌝 | 𑌞 |
| क | ख | ग | घ | ङ | च | छ | ज | झ | ञ |
| க | க$_2$ | க$_3$ | க$_4$ | ங | ச | ச$_2$ | ஜ | ஜ$_2$ | ஞ |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 𑌟 | 𑌠 | 𑌡 | 𑌢 | 𑌣 | 𑌤 | 𑌥 | 𑌦 | 𑌧 | 𑌨 |
| ट | ठ | ड | ढ | ण | त | थ | द | ध | न |
| ட | ட$_2$ | ட$_3$ | ட$_4$ | ண | த | த$_2$ | த$_3$ | த$_4$ | ந |

𑌪 𑌫 𑌬 𑌭 𑌮

प फ ब भ म

ப ஃப ப$_3$ ப$_4$ ம

𑌯 𑌰 𑌲 𑌵 𑌶 𑌷 𑌸 𑌹 𑌳

य र ल व श ष स ह ळ

ய ர ல வ ஶ ஷ ஸ ஹ ள

In the Sanskrit language, we have 15 vowels from अ to अः .

The generic consonants are 33 from क to ह. The sound ள In Tamil is generally represented as ळ in Sanskrit. क्ष(க்ஷ) is actually a combination of क and ष (க்ஷ).

The sequence of sounds from क to क्ष is referred to as अक्षमाला *(அக்ஷமாலா)*. In Sanskrit literature dealing with special subjects the special vowel ऌ has its long equivalent as well, which takes the vowel count to 16.

The two short vowels in Tamil *(எ ஒ)* do not have equivalents in Sanskrit which has only their long form (ए ओ).

The shapes of some of the Grantha letters are close to those of Tamil.

𑌉 𑌊 𑌓 𑌔 𑌣 𑌤 𑌨 𑌯 𑌵

உ ஊ ஒ ஔ ண த ந ய வ

The other letters have shapes which differ. The Grantha Script evolved during the reign of the Pallavas in South India when Sanskrit as well as Tamil were prominent in use. This would explain the similarities between Tamil and Grantha letters. The Sanskrit letters in Grantha evolved from the early representation of Sanskrit in the Brahmi script (~300 BCE).

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| அ | ஆ | ஈ | ஏ | க | ச |
| 𑌅 | 𑌆 | 𑌈 | 𑌏 | 𑌕 | 𑌚 |
| ஞ | ட | ப | ர | ல | |
| 𑌞 | 𑌟 | 𑌪 | 𑌰 | 𑌲 | |

If one looks at the Grantha letters, one will observe close similarity between some of them, to the point of leading to confusion while reading. The following which have closely resembling shapes may be noted.

𑌇 (இ)   𑌙 (ங)   𑌳 (ள)

𑌖 (க₂)   𑌚 (ச)   𑌪 (ப)   𑌵 (வ)

அனுஸ்வாரம் o 𑌟 O

## व्यञ्जनानि - 𑌵𑍍𑌯𑌞𑍍𑌜𑌨𑌾𑌨𑌿 மெய்யெழுத்துக்கள்

Sounds of a language are made up of vowels, pure or generic consonants and consonant vowel combinations.

Normally, while teaching the basic sounds, the basic consonants are always taught with the implied vowel

अ (அ). When it is necessary to represent a generic

consonant Without an accompanying vowel, a special mark is added to the consonant to indicate that it is a generic consonant.
in the Grantha script, the mark 𑍍 is used to indicate generic

consonants. In some cases a special shape is also specified. The representations for all the generic consonants is shown below.

Note : கூ் த் ந் ஶ் have special forms

கூ வ் ஓ் வ் ஜ்

வ் ஜ் ஜ் ஙு் ஞு்

ட் ဝ் ஊ் ஜ் ணு்

க ம் ஓ் ய் ந

வ் ம் ஸ் ஸ் ு

ய் ரு் ஞ் வ் பு்

ஷ் ஸ் ஹ் ஸ் க்ஷ்

स्वररेखाः ஸ்வரரேகா: - உயிர் எழுத்துக் குறிகள்

अ आ इ ई उ ऊ ऋ

அ ஆ இ ஈ உ ஊ ஋

ा ि ी ु ू ृ

ா ி ீ ு ூ ்ரு

ॠ ऌ ए ऐ ओ औ

ॠ ஌ ஏ ஐ ஓ ஔ

े ै ो ौ

ெ ை ொ ௌ

Consonant vowel combinations are illustrated below for க

க கா கி கீ கு

கூ க்ரு கெ

கை கொ கௌ கஂ கஃ

The shapes used to indicate the combinations of a consonant With a vowel are generally known as “matras”. It may be noted

that for some vowels, the matras are placed before the consonant while for others the matras follow the consonant.

## संयुक्ताक्षराः ஸம்யுக்தாக்ஷரா:

கூட்டெழுத்துக்கள்

The writing system followed for Sanskrit also specifies methods for conjuncts where generic consonants combine with other generic consonants. Such combinations are called संयुक्ताक्षराः. A Samyuktakshar may have typically 2 to 3 consonants in it though there are some with four and a special one with five!

In the Grantha script, methods are specified for such conjunct Aksharas as well. The word Akshara is used to refer to a sound in the written form as well.

In the Devanagari script for Sanskrit, the general rules For writing conjuncts are effected through the use of half forms or one below the other form. In some cases a separate and unique form is also specified for a few conjuncts. Similar rules apply for writing conjuncts in the Grantha script.

Here are some examples in Devanagari where the one Below the other rule is applied.

क्क (क क), ट्ट (ट ट), ष्ट (ष ट), ष्ट्र (ष ट र), ङ्ग (ङ ग)

Here are some examples where half forms are used.

क्ट(क ट), प्त(प त), ञ्च(ञ च), म्न(म न), ल्प(ल प)

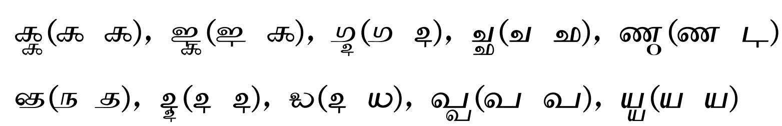
Interestingly, the Devanagari system also provides for Some alternate methods for writing some of the conjuncts.

क्त (क त) , क्ष (क ष) , ज्ञ (ज ञ) , प्त (प त) etc.,

In the Grantha script more or less unique rules apply for writing conjuncts. The lines below illustrate this for Grantha. Devanagari examples are given first.

क्क (क क), ङ्क (ङ क), ग्द (ग द), च्छ (च छ), ण्ठ (ण ट)

न्त (न त), द्द (द द), द्ध (द ध), प्प (प प), य्य (य य)



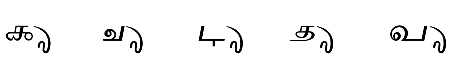
In Grantha (as in Devanagari) Special forms are used

Where र or य occurs at the end of a conjunt.

क्र च्र ट्र त्र प्र etc.

 etc.

क्य च्य ट्य त्य प्य

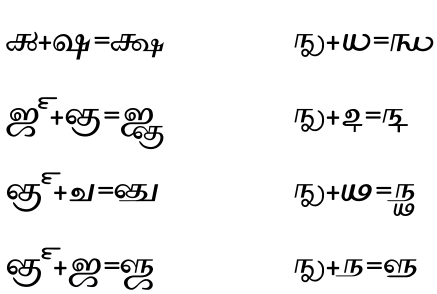


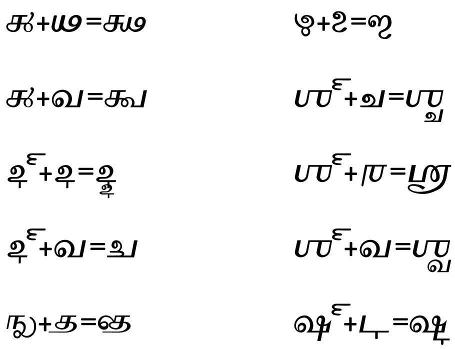
It is possible to confuse the shape used for [illegible] with

The shape used for the matra for the vowel [illegible]. While

reading Grantha text this should be kept in mind.

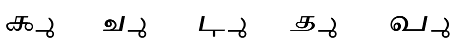
The most common conjunts with special forms in Grantha are shown below.





In Devanagari, combinations with र take a special form (knows as रेफम्) when र occurs as the first consonant in a conjunct . In Grantha too, this is observed.

र्क र्च र्ट र्त र्प are examples.



When र occurs in the beginning and य ends the conjunt, there is bound to be some confusion as to which shape goes first. Take for instance अर्क्य  . This is resolved by reckoning the fact that य comes before र in the order of consonants. The shape shown above applies.